(b) if so, what is the number of such public sector units which are to be handed over to the private sector;

(c) what efforts are being made to tone up the efficiency in the other public sector units which are running on loss;

(d) what were the programmes in respect of those units which have been continuously running in loss for the last five or ten years and have not improved their performance in in spite of the efforts made; and

(e) whether huge losses in these public sectors are still continuing ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have continuously taking steps to improve performance of public enterprises which differ from enterprise to enterprise depending on their specific probelms. However, the steps in general are listed out at page 179 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87 laid on the Table of the House on 25-2-1988.

(e) Losses in some of public sector units are still continuing.

Marketing of Sub-Standard Drugs

4507 DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale marketing of sub-standard drugs in the country as reported in the Indian Express of 12th July, 1988:

(b) whether manufacturers and retail sellers will be made responsible for the sale of safe and quality drugs to the consumers; and

(e) whether Government will market drugs through a chain of stores as part of Public Distribution System or through consumer cooperatives throughout the country in order to break the monopoly the present distribution and marketing channels?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) There is no news item relating to sub-standard drugs available in the Indian Express dated 12th July. 1988 New Delhi edition.. However during the year 1986-87, 26082 samples drawn by Drugs Inspectors of various States were tested out of which 4030 samples were found sub-standard.

(b) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules every manufacturer is responsible for the quality of drugs manufactured and marked by him. Under the conditions of licence for retail sale a licencee has to purchase drugs only from duly licensed dealer or duly licensed manufacturer. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, prohibits manufacture/stocking/sale of sub-standard spurious, misbranded or adulterated drugs.

(c) No such decision has been taken by the Government so far.